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THE YELLOW SHEETS

October 1943



The terrible drought has broken at last---the last week in September. A six weeks dry spell in mid summer is normal and to be expected but we look for soaking rains about the last week of July, and at that time plant our fall gardens, with good expectation of continued rains. But we have no fall gardens this year.

Was able to hire a man who had raised no spring truck, to floor my attic. He did a good job and my space is increased by an upstairs room about 10x24. When Ralph marries and I keep house to myself, out here, I will have plenty of room, well insulated.

We are now faced with a fuel shortage. Plenty of wood available, but labor simply is not. Plenty of men sitting around on store porches but not open to opportunities to earn money. Sometimes seems to me that big prices for spring truck is a curse to the region.

Of plants available at this time, I have
IRIS, unlabelled, 40 varieties \$1.00 postpaid.

Self Heal (*Prunella*) for the wild garden, poor soil, full sun, purple flowers.

Wood Betony (*Pedicularis canadensis*) also called Lousewort, fern like foliage dark red in early spring, yellow flowers on good stems for cutting; indifferent to soil but must have shade.

Partridgeberry (*Michella repens*) popular Christmas decoration; hardy, evergreen ground cover; needs deep shade in the south, acid soil fruit edible.

Green Briar---vine; sticky; nodules on roots grow quite large and are used for making pipes.

Iris cristata, blue with gold, best for shady ground cover.

Leather Breeches, do not know botanical name; new foliage in late winter; lavender flowers on good stems in early summer; valued by the Indians as a food plant.

Rattlesnake Weed; medicinal herb; highly esteemed by the Indians for treatment of poisoned wounds.

Ferns---Christmas; Ebony Spleenwort; Blunt lobed Woodsie; Resurrection; Bracken; and Lady.

Red Tradescantia, so called from cold weather coloring of the leaves. Color of blooms affected by differences of color and exposure. One of the native Spiderworts.

Cultivated Violets---White, early; good late winter bloomer in the house if you have a dependable cat. Nice crazy for the tiny buds.

Confederate Violets; grey effect; my favorite; can stand full sun. Hemerocallis---Kwanso and Fulva. Temporarily out of flavor.

Hardy rock garden plants.

A number of Sedums hardy in the north.

I have a large number of named Sempervivums, but birth control seems to be fashionable among them. Only a few with chicks yet.

Hardy Cacti---

Opuntia vulgare (Prickly Pear) yellow flowers, fruit edible.

Another *Opuntia*, much taller plant; stately lawn decoration; yellow flowers.

Another *Opuntia*, native of Colorado; thick pads; pink flowers.

Opuntia Erinacea (Hairy *Opuntia*).

Opuntia ramossissima, dwarf; good pot plant; hardy here.

Temporarily out of *Opuntia Cholla* until more little ones are rooted

Sedums in quantity---*Sarmentosum*, very hardy, will need trimming to keep neat, and trimmings good forage for pet goats and rabbits; one sent me labelled *Glaucum*, much like *Album* but turns bronzy in winter; one sent me labelled *Fosterianum*, much like *Glaucum* but more open growth and at times showing more red; *Album*, almost evergreen with us; an unidentified grey green one with, at times attractive under color; *Acre*; *Sexangulare*, both good ground covers for bare, clayey spots; *Maximowiczii*, said to have been popular in Europe before Hitler but not common in U. S.; two which are in dispute among smarter botanists than I. Some say No. 26 is the pink flowered *Stoloneferum*, and that No. 28 is *Stoloneferum*. Others just as well informed say that both are *Spurium* hybrids.

Have only small quantities of *Kamchaticum*; one sent me labelled *Persifolia*, much like *Spurium* but bigger leaves at time; *Sieboldi*; *Spurium*; *Ellencombianum*; *Reflexium*; *Reflexium minor*, so much like *Acre*; *Crested Purpureum*; a deciduous form of *Album*; *Ternatum*; one much like *Ternatum* but blooms later, *Middendorffianum*; *Spectabile alba*; *Adolphi*; *Gautemalensis* (10¢ tender; and some others not yet identified.

Except where noted, all above plants 5¢ each. Postage paid on orders of 50¢ and over. Less than that please add 5¢. Cash with order.

Most of my house plants were killed in last winter's blizzards, and replaced with cuts. Not all ready yet, as the drought put a stop to propagating.

Talinum, commonly called Pink Baby's Breath, tender perennial 5¢.

Peanut Cactus, tender 10¢

Frog leg Cactus (*Kalanchoe tubiflora*) 10¢

Pedilanthus variegata 10¢

Kalanchoe Fedtschenkoi 10¢

Crassula lycopodioides 10¢

100 well rooted, small clumps of Sedums, my selection, 12 varieties labelled to the best of my knowledge, \$2.00 postpaid.

50 well rooted, small clumps of Sedums, my selection, 10 varieties labelled to the best of my knowledge, \$1.00 postpaid.

7 well rooted sedums, my selection, all different, 25¢. Write me what you have.

I have quite a lot of healthy, well rooted Sedums, whose labels have become mixed or lost. So many look alike at certain times that, without labels, identification is largely guesswork. Will sell single plants, not labelled for 1¢ each in lots of 25.

Unless hindered by advancing cost of paper, the seasonal changes in my stock of plants will require a new price list every few weeks. A copy of each issue for 12 issues will be sent for 25¢. Address LAURA D. COLE, GRANTIS, ARK.

Hand pieced, hand quilted quilts, your choice of color and pattern, \$12.00 each. You furnish material, \$10.00 each. Mrs. M. V. Smith, Gillham, Ark.

And on either side of the river was there the tree of life, which³ bear twelve manner of fruit, and yielded her fruit every month.

It is amazing, the number of prophecies dealing with the coming Kingdom of God upon earth, which have reference to some phase of gardening. We see the beginning of the fulfillment of this prophecy in the fruit trees now being offered, which carry several varieties of fruit on one root. This has not been carried to anything like the extent of which it is capable.

Luther Burbank told an interviewer that in the back yard of his Santa Rosa home, was room for only one tree. He and his wife decided on an Apple tree, partly because of the beauty of it's spring blooms. On the original sprout, he grafted or budded nine others, making ten in all. He selected varieties blooming in succession, which greatly lengthened the season of blooming, and which also varied in time of ripening, giving them Apples through the year, from early to the winter keepers.

A man writing in Better Homes and Gardens, some years ago, told of his experiment with an ordinary Flowering Almond. This bush is sterile, but closely related to the Peach and Almond families. On this bush, he budded three varieties of Peaches, early, mid season and late, one Apricot, one Nectarine, and one nut bearing Almond. At the time of writing, all the fruit branches had borne full sized fruit of good quality and the Almond branch had borne catkins.

Seems to me that one practical means of helping bring on the Kingdom, is to learn grafting and budding, experiment and report the results.

My African Succulents have stood the droughth best of any of my plants.

Miss Violet Munger, of Bernallillo, New Mexico, has been kind enough to loan me some textbooks on Succulents published under the auspices of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. Am having a great time identifying mine. I find that the plant sent me labelled *Crassula Schmidtii*, and which I have sold under that name, is really *Kalanchoe Fedtschenkoi*. Normally the leaves are a soft grey green, but when it began to really suffer with the droughth, they began to turn purple. Now flourishing and of normal color. This plant propagates by leaves. Remove a fully grown leaf, press it gently into soft soil, right side up, and baby plants form along the edge. Very pretty even when not in flower and hardly needing as much care as a Begonia.

Crassula lycopodioides looks like some kind of dark green Moss. Made a little new growth even when suffering for water. I think it would be nice as an edging plant to a window box, that got full sun only about half a day.

The Sedum I listed as *lineare variegata* is now recognized as a variety of *Sarmentosum*, but I find it nothing like so hardy as the common *Sarmentosum*. The Blizzard last January killed all of mine but one plant, and I fear the droughth has killed that.

I fear I have lost my perennial *Sedum Pulchellum*, but it may come out from the roots.

Lack of water may be the reason why the *Sempervivums* have shown so little increase.

Cultivated Violets and *Iris cristata* now dormant for the remainder of the year. Violets due to appear long before frosts are over, but the *cristatas* not before the first of April.

Due to milk shortage in many places, more people than usual are considering buying a milk goat. We have had from one to several since Ralph was big enough to care for her, and I find them an economical source of milk of high quality. Personally I do not like goat's milk because of the high sugar content, tastes like cow's milk sweetened. When using goat's milk with cereal, I do not add other sugar, plenty in the milk; but this extra sweetness is not objectional to most people. The bad smell of goats is characteristic of the males, not of the does. About seven does can be kept on what feed would be needed for one cow, and the seven will give more milk than the cow. It is surprising the amount of goat feed which is normally produced in a garden. When our family numbered seven and our garden a little over a quarter of an acre, we produced all the roughage Ralph's Nannie ate, and part of the grain feed, for which she returned choice meat from buck kids, and when kids were weaned, three quarts of rich milk a day for several months; and during her dry periods, a farmer was glad to have her in his pasture, for her browsing on brush.

Corn stalks, pea and bean vines, pea and bean hulls, and sweet potato vines and leaves all make fine goat hay; while cull beets, carrots, and other root crops, outside leaves of cabbage and lettuce, tops of root crops, etc. substitute for silage; and ears of corn which became too dry for roasting ears was allowed to ripen for winter grain. The small amount of boughten feed she needed left the cost of her milk very low indeed.

Young does, during first milking period give about half what may be expected of them when mature. Ruth, the young doe I am milking now, freshened first week of March, this year, with a male kid. At six weeks, we butchered and ate the kid, fine meat, fully equal to lamb. From that time on, she gave two quarts of milk daily, until recently when she began to dry off, for her rest before freshening again. Will freshen twice in less than a year. I have never churned her milk separately, just strain it into the churn with the cow's cream; but recently, the child of a neighbor became sick and the doctor prescribed goat's milk. I loaned Ruth to them for a week or so, and our butter yield was cut almost in half.

Carrie, another doe of ours, which freshened also in March; had twin does, and after the kids were weaned and sold, gave full three quarts daily until I sold her. A stable 5x6 ft. is ample room for one goat. A broad shelf should be fixed at one side, handy height for the milker, and feed box above this. The goat will naturally sleep on the shelf, and should be trained to hop up on the shelf for feed and to be milked, which saves stooping for the milker. Ruth meets me at the gate as I approach with milk bucket and feed (latter in a coffee can). "Now get in there and hop up on it like a lady" I snap at her. And she goes into her stable, jumps up on the shelf and waits for me. Ralph built her stable, 6x10 ft. from mill slabs and waste lumber. Ran a partition across it, giving two rooms, 5x6 ft. One is her stable, the other her feed room, with outside door. Aside from his labor, I doubt if the building cost \$3.00.

My hens look like "picked chickens", especially Mr. Highhat, the big Dark Brahma, but when shut up at night, and let out at noon, we get plenty of big fresh eggs for our own use.

An operation, in 1919, for cancer, left me very deaf, which naturally cuts me off from much social enjoyment. A result has been increase in reading and study. Many of the books I want are the kind to be found in old libraries, and which a young heir would want to clear out. My recreation is murder mysteries. When I am tired out, hurting too badly to sleep, and nerves all jangled, I can go to bed with a thrilling murder mystery, forget the pain, and when the murderer is safely jailed, I can turn out the light and go to sleep. They are better than drugs. As I find I want a certain book, I put name and author down on a list, and when I get the book, either by trade or a loan, scratch out that name, unless it is one I want to keep as a reference book. In that case, I return it at promised time, and keep name on list.

Some, I read only once or twice and am through with them. These I put on another list. Now maybe someone else has books they do not care to keep and would like some of my plants. They may have books I want. If so, please write me and I will send all three lists--what plants I have to trade, what books, and what books I want.

Mrs. Ignace Ferrick, Topeka, Kan. writes me that she finds that some cuttings which root well in water in spring, do better in sand in the fall. She has been kind enough to send me cuttings of three colors of variegated leaf Sultana. I am so proud of them and hope they root well.

If you live near a garbage plant, or on a grain farm, or elsewhere that rats are worse than usual, you need a grade wild cat. They are as gentle and affectionate as ordinary house cats, mate freely with the latter, but are the bravest and best ratters I know of, except Ferrets. My friend, Mrs. Miller, has two eighth blood kittens. Has promised me one, as soon as weaned and will give the other to someone who will pay the transportation charges and give it a good home.

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